(viii) Creating awareness among public about PDS operations, training Vigilance Committees of intricacies of PDS operations.

(ix) Making fair price shops financially viable entities – allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.

Sanction of new rail line projects in Rajasthan

*263. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has not accepted the proposal of some new rail line projects because of paucity of funds; and

(b) in view of the poor railway network in Rajasthan, whether Government are going to accept the projects *i.e.*, to link Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad broad gauge railway line, Jaisalmer to Sanu, Jaisalmer to Barmer and Jaipur to Nathdwara for industrial, mining and tourism development of the State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Many new lines surveyed in the past could not be taken up due to heavy throwforward of ongoing projects, unremunerative nature of the line surveyed and constraint of resources.

(b) New line projects are taken up to serve new industries, providing missing links, on strategic reasons and for establishing new growth centres/giving access to remote areas apart from the financial viability of the project. For linking Bhiwadi on Delhi-Ahmedabad route, the State Government of Rajasthan expressed willingness to take up this project under National Capital Region Plan and Assistance to the State for Infrastructure Development for Export and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme. The State Government was requested to bear the cost of the project since it had high negative rate of return and there has not been any positive response. The survey for Jaisalmer-Sanu new line has been taken up as a part of Jaisalmer-Anupgarh *via* Ramgarh. Survey for Jaisalmer-Barmer new line has brought out its negative Rate of Return, which is under examination. No survey for Jaipur-Nathdwara new line has been sanctioned as yet.

Wasteful expenditure due to lack of comprehensive planning

*264. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General has pulled up Railways for lack of comprehensive planning which resulted in wasteful expenditure on track renewal works on sections identified for gauge conversion and the improvement in track parameters is not commensurate with large number of track renewal works undertaken by Railways;

(b) whether CAG noted that the budgetary control mechanism was inadequate as seen from the savings over some zonal railways and excess expenditure over